

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RETIREMENT OF DOREEN DOTZLER, DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE OFFICE OF OFFICIAL REPORTERS

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Doreen Dotzler, the Deputy Chief of the Office of Official Reporters, as she retires after twenty-three years of service to the House in the Office of the Clerk.

A Minnesota native, Doreen first came to Congress in 1998, working as a House stenographer covering committee assignments for the Clerk's Office. From 2001 to 2014, she served as a stenographer on the House Floor, and then transitioned to a Senior Official Reporter Position before taking on her current role in 2019. Among a great many other responsibilities, over the last seven years, Doreen has read every single word spoken on the House Floor, and over her career she has borne witness to countless historic moments in this chamber. It is in no small part because of her dedication, her knowledge of Congressional procedure, and her attention to detail that the daily CONGRESSIONAL RECORD over her tenure has been consistently accurate and reliable.

After previously delaying her retirement to extend her public service, Doreen leaves her post this year after a distinguished tenure in support of the House and its work. This institution and the American people it serves have greatly benefitted from her work, and I hope all of my colleagues will join me in extending my heartfelt thanks to Doreen and wishing her and her husband Terry and their family the very best as she retires.

CONGRATULATING CAMAS HIGH SCHOOL'S GIRLS SOCCER TEAM FOR WINNING THE WASHINGTON STATE 4A CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Camas High School's girls soccer team for winning the Washington state 4A championship, the program's third state title and second in five years. The COVID-19 pandemic limited many of our prep athletes from competing during the 2020 season, yet high school athletes like the girls on the Camas soccer team have demonstrated the ability to adapt and persevere in these competitions. For the undefeated Papermakers, that perseverance has paid off in a big way.

Competing in prep sports is a wonderful opportunity to learn lessons in discipline, focus,

team play, work ethic, and comradery. Winning a state title is a momentous achievement this team can be proud of for the rest of their lives, and I have confidence they will find success using the lessons they learned while competing in soccer. Go Papermakers.

HONORING LT. COL. BEN JACKMAN

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Ben Jackman, Battalion Commander of the 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division.

Originally from Princeton, N.J., Lt. Col. Jackman has an elite pedigree from our nation's premier military institutions. After graduating from West Point, he completed Ranger School and served multiple deployments, first in Korea and subsequently in Iraq. In between tours abroad, he attended the Command and General Staff College and the Advanced Military Studies Program at Fort Leavenworth, before deploying to Afghanistan. In the almost 20 years that Lt. Col. Jackman has worn the uniform, he has earned multiple awards and decorations, including the Ranger Tab, the Combat Infantryman and Expert Infantryman Badges, the Bronze Star Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters.

In short, Lt. Col. Jackman is an officer's officer. He sets the standard for the other battalion commanders and officers around him—which is why, when the mission to safeguard the airport in Kabul demanded our nation's best, Lt. Col. Jackman stepped into the breach. He came face to face with a chaotic, dangerous situation on the ground, full of risk for both the Afghans crowding the gates and the troops responsible for guarding them. The mission demanded equal parts strategic knowledge of perimeter security as well as the human skills to determine who could get through.

The mission brought out the best of our nation's servicemen and women. It had them give up sleep and comfort to help load the sick, the elderly, and small children onto planes scheduled to depart. It required stamina and grit, and it involved sacrifice—11 Marines, an Army soldier and a Navy corpsman who gave their lives defending our allies.

Through it all, Lt. Col. Jackman is the reason that our group of more than 100 Afghans was able to safely make it inside the airport gates. His bravery and his command spared them from the danger they faced to life and limb.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Lt. Col. Ben Jackman for his willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For the profound dif-

ference that he has made in the lives of hundreds, if not thousands of individuals who are now safe, and for his actions that are in keeping with the highest traditions of our military and our nation, I submit these words—may they stand as a tribute to his dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

INITIATING A POSITIVE AND PRODUCTIVE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE OROMO COMMUNITY OF MINNESOTA AND THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, the ongoing civil conflict in Ethiopia is inflicting terrible suffering on the Ethiopian people of all ethnic groups. The mass killing of civilians, the violence against women, blatant human rights abuses, and displacement of nearly 2 million people are all the consequences of the Ethiopian government's brutal use of military force earlier this year. Now a civil war is raging among armed groups organized along ethnic lines that threatens the lives of millions of innocent civilians and has the potential to destabilize all of East Africa.

In Minnesota, we are fortunate to be home to the largest community of Oromo-Americans in the U.S. and quite possibly the largest Oromo community outside of Ethiopia. I am honored to represent many Oromo-American constituents, but I can say they are suffering because their family and friends in Ethiopia have for years been enduring violence, repression, and human rights abuses by the current government, and preceding Ethiopian governments as well.

Yesterday, my office hosted a direct dialogue between the leaders of the Oromo Community of Minnesota and representatives of the U.S. State Department's Africa Bureau led by Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary (PDAS) Ervin Massinga. The dialogue was an opportunity for the President of the Oromo Community of Minnesota, Ms. Leyla Abawari, and her colleagues to directly share their perspectives, concerns, and recommendations for U.S. diplomatic engagement in Ethiopia, as well as elevate the political and humanitarian issues facing the people of Oromia.

The Oromo-American representatives voiced their strong desire for ongoing U.S. diplomatic action with the goals of achieving peace, respect for human rights, democratic political freedoms, the release of political prisoners, and a humanitarian response that alleviates the horrible human suffering faced by the Oromo and all innocent Ethiopians caught in this conflict.

I applaud the State Department's diplomatic efforts in Ethiopia despite facing a very challenging situation and I know the Biden Administration is committed to continuing to work

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

tirelessly to achieve peace. I am deeply appreciative of PDAS Massinga's willingness to hear the concerns of the Minnesota Oromo community and respond with direct, respectful, and honest answers.

My long relationship with the Oromo community of Minnesota is built on respect for their many contributions the success of our state and country. I will continue to work closely with the community to ensure that their relatives and friends in Oromia, and all of Ethiopia, can live in peace with the hope and opportunity for the future.

I include in the RECORD the following letter from the Oromo Community of Minnesota outlining their views on the situation in Ethiopia and the conditions faced by the Oromo people.

COMMENTARY ON THE CIVIL WAR IN ETHIOPIA  
(Oromo Community of Minnesota)

Ethiopia is fast approaching state collapse. The civil wars raging in the north, south and western parts of the country leaving hundreds and thousands of dead, injured, and displaced. The war has featured gruesome human rights abuses, massacre, sexual assault, and substantial humanitarian crisis. The media and international diplomacy have been preoccupied by the war in the northern that involves Ethiopian federal government and allied forces from Amhara, Eritrean forces one side and TPLF/TDF on the other side, the preceding and equally damaging civil war in Oromia has not been spotlighted.

For the last three years western Oromia and southern Oromia have been under military command post by supplanting civil administration. Ethiopian government tried to justify the imposition of military as counter insurgency measures against OLA. As Amnesty and other human rights organizations have documented Ethiopian securities have committed egregious human rights abuses, extrajudicial killings, rape, torture, mass arrests, burning village and displacement under the guise law enforcement measures. Most of the victims have been students, farmers, members of opposition parties, families of opposition parties and government employees. So far government have neither investigated nor prosecuted the perpetrators of crimes.

Although the situation in Ethiopia continues to be exceedingly volatile, we would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the United States government for taking important steps in pressuring the Ethiopian government and fighting parties to hold a national dialogue. We support the administration's decision to impose sanctions on those responsible for human rights violations. It is imperative that the warring parties, including the Ethiopian National Defense Forces, the Tigray People's Liberation Front, and Amhara regional forces, and other armed groups cease all hostilities, protect human rights, allow unfettered humanitarian access, and cooperate with independent investigations of human right abuses being perpetrated against civilians. Oromos represent over 40 per-

cent of the population, therefore, play a significant role in bringing lasting peace to Ethiopia's problems. It is becoming more evident that the country continues to face a complete destabilization, and the opportunity to take decisive action is closing rapidly. We feel addressing the following significant factors in the context of the entire country is essential to address the crisis.

The Oromia region is being devastated by the conflict, just this week, the nation is mourning the loss of Members of Karrayyu Gadaa leadership (the council of an Oromo sacred Institution who were massacred during a prayer ceremony 'Waaq Kadhaa' by government forces on December 1st, 2021.

State-sanctioned violence in Western Oromia: Under the pretext of fighting armed groups, government security forces themselves have been the perpetrators carrying out extrajudicial killings, rape, and human rights abuses (see: 2020 Amnesty Report).

Drone attacks are continuously being carried out in Wollo and Wollega, claiming thousands of lives. These drones are being supplied by the Turkish, UAE, and Iran governments.

Lack of humanitarian access to areas of Guji, Borana, Bale, Wollega, and Wollo that continue to be affected by the conflict in the Oromia region.

The detention of the prominent Oromo Political opposition leaders—Following the assassination of beloved Oromo singer and activist Haacaaluu Hundeessaa, key political leaders and government opposition figures such as Jawar Mohammed, a former Minnesotan resident, and Bekele Gerba was imprisoned in the capital, Addis Ababa. Currently, more than 100,000 Oromo youth prisoners across the country are held without due process of law.

An ongoing communications blackout in Oromia

Mass imprisonment and ethnic profiling of the Oromo people

Lack of freedom of expression (media) and association

The profiling and detention of American citizens of Oromo origin in Ethiopia. Recently, Mr. Yonas Gudata, a Minnesotan resident, has been unlawfully detained by the Ethiopian government after traveling there to visit his sick father.

The Forced recruitment of child soldiers in the Ethiopian army—Children as young as eight are being forced into conscription. They are being placed on the frontlines to be shielded from ENDF soldiers.

The Rhetoric by regime supporter diasporas despite being pro-regime voices, they continue to undermine the pressure by the U.S. and advocate for the Ethiopian regime to continue their brutality against civilians across the country unchecked. There is clear hate speech by encouraging the regime for mass arrests and violence against civilians.

The unnoticed act of those who hold U.S. citizenship, but are involved in

the act of armed conflict, and the promotion of a complete annihilation of other nationalities, mainly Oromos and Tigrayans.

With communications blackouts throughout the country and the lack of independent press, the regime is using disinformation and propaganda to fuel violence, hide what is happening, and create confusion. Pro-regime forces online are going after international journalists and academics discussing or covering the ongoing crises.

Conflict in Benishangul-Gumuz Region: Violence in the Metekkel Zone in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region in western Ethiopia has intensified over possession and control of its fertile and resource-filled land. This conflict has led to incidents of intercommunal violence—between

historically marginalized indigenous populations of the region and others who have settled there. As the Amhara Regional State tries to expand its domain, claim the land, and displace the indigenous peoples, the conflict has escalated. PM Abiy Ahmed is repeating a call for Amhara security forces and militias to be involved, raising concerns that even more civilians will be killed and harmed. A report by the UNHCR indicates that thousands of people from Metekkel fled to South Sudan to escape the conflict (see: Voice of America—English and Foreign Policy).

War in Tigray: The war in Tigray that began November 4, 2020, continues. Establishing accountability for mass atrocities and war crimes committed at the hands of Ethiopian National Defense Forces, Eritrean soldiers, and Amhara militias and unimpeded humanitarian access to all affected by these hostilities.

Sudan-Ethiopia border conflict: Ethiopia and Sudan are currently escalating disputes over the control of the "al-fashqa triangle", an area of fertile farming land. According to the UN, Sudanese Armed Forces, Ethiopian National Defense Forces, including Amhara militia, and Eritrean forces are deployed around the Barkhat settlement in Greater Fashaga. Clashes have been reported since early March (see: Bloomberg).

Dam dispute between Ethiopia, Egypt, and Sudan: The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), located in the Benishangul-Gumuz Regional State, has been under construction since 2011. It remains a contentious project among the three countries because of competing interests to provide cheap electricity and protect the fresh water supply from the Nile. Despite negotiations that have lasted years and include the U.S., Sudan, Egypt, and Ethiopia, they have failed to reach an agreement. In July 2020, Ethiopia began filling the dam's reservoir without a deal, adding to the growing animosity among the three countries. Ethiopia has rejected Sudan's call for outside help in mediating (see: U.S. News).

Crisis of refugees and forcibly displaced persons from Oromia and southern nations of SNNPR and Sidama regional states: On March 7, 2021, hundreds of fleeing migrants who had been forcibly detained in Yemen were killed and injured in deliberate fire at a detention center in Yemen. (See: Human Rights Watch).

It appears that Abiy Ahmed's promises made in 2018 to transition Ethiopia into a democracy has slid back to authoritarianism, causing an influx of people from Oromia, SNNPR, and Sidama regional states to countries in the Middle East seeking refuge, many of which have found themselves stuck in war-torn countries like Yemen. Increasing state brutality against local dissenting populations from special police, local police, army, and Republican guard is mounting dramatically. These circumstances are causing a massive outflow of migrants seeking safety and work. Ethiopia is on the brink of entirely destabilizing. It is critical for a national dialogue, which includes opposition leaders, parties, and stakeholders, to be convened by an independent third party to address and resolve the complex crises ravaging the country. As stated above, the window of time is rapidly closing for the United States to leverage its influence in a way that salvages prospects for democracy in this vitally important country and region.

IN RECOGNITION OF BAY LINK  
MANUFACTURING AND THEIR  
EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE TO  
NORTHEAST WISCONSIN

**HON. MIKE GALLAGHER**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to extend my sincere appreciation to the Bay Link Manufacturing team at Green Bay West High School for constructing an American Flag pull-up bar for display.

Bay Link Manufacturing is a manufacturing learning lab located in West High School that is used to immerse students in real-world experiences through completing projects for local companies in the areas of welding, machine fabrication, and metals. Bay Link Manufacturing began when the Green Bay Area Public School District recognized that our future depends on creating a highly-skilled workforce to sustain our communities. In 2014, the Green Bay Area Public School District partnered with Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and the NEW Manufacturing Alliance to create Bay Link Manufacturing.

This outstanding program is available to Juniors and Seniors enrolled throughout the Green Bay Area Public School District and prepares students to attend a two- or four-year college or those who enter the workforce in the field of manufacturing and engineering. Since 2014, the Bay Link students have produced a lengthy portfolio that recognizes their hard work and dedication to their craft. The Bay Link program has completed projects for

companies including Georgia-Pacific, Green Bay Police Department S.W.A.T. team, KI, and ACE Marine. I commend the Bay Link Team for the outstanding services that they have provided to the students at the Green Bay School District and to businesses throughout Northeast Wisconsin.

The Bay Link Manufacturing program provides local employers throughout Northeast Wisconsin with the opportunity to train future employees to ensure that the manufacturing sector continues to grow. The Bay Link Manufacturing program at West High School is a true credit to Northeast Wisconsin. The American Flag pull-up bar they have displayed in my District Office is one step closer to fulfilling my dream of having a pull-up bar in every airport and I want to extend my sincere thanks to the Bay Link Manufacturing students for making that a reality.

Madam Speaker, please join me in extending my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Bay Link Manufacturing team at West High School for their work on the American Flag pull-up bar and all they do for Northeast Wisconsin.

HONORING TERRENCE J. "TERRY"  
BOBROWSKI

**HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK"  
FLEISCHMANN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Terry Bobrowski and recognize a lifetime of service to his community.

For 35 years, Terry served East Tennessee communities through his work at the East Tennessee Development District. Terry led as the Executive Director from February 2002 until his retirement earlier this year. Terry previously served the ETDD as Director of Economic Development. Under Terry's stewardship, the ETDD established a Planning Advisory service that transitioned a major community planning program from the State of Tennessee to provide expert assistance for strategic planning to communities throughout the East Tennessee region. ETDD also maintains a public infrastructure inventory database, provides GIS support to help communities throughout this region make data-driven planning decisions, and assists federal agencies in providing services throughout the region.

Terry has also served his community, lending his leadership to several local and national organizations. Terry served as President and Board Member for the National Association of Development Organizations, past National Chairman of the Rural Transportation Planning Task Force, past Chair of the Tennessee Development District Association, past Board Member of the Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee, past Board Member of the Southeast Regional Directors Institute, and is a member of the East Tennessee Industrial Council, the Tennessee Economic Development Council, and the American Economic Development Council.

Terry has been a recognized subject matter expert in rural and regional planning. During his career, Terry has provided testimony to the President's Rural Development Task Force, the U.S. Senate Steering Committee on Rural

Development, and the U.S. House Subcommittee on Transportation & Infrastructure.

It is with great pleasure that I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Terry Bobrowski for his years of service with the East Tennessee Development District and wish him the very best in his retirement.

CONGRATULATING DANIEL QUIN-  
TANA FOR WINNING THE WASH-  
INGTON STATE 1B/2B BOYS  
CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Daniel Quintana of Ilwaco High School for winning the Washington state 1B/2B boys cross country championship. In his senior year, Daniel achieved the rare feat of winning a second consecutive state cross country title.

The COVID-19 pandemic limited many of our prep athletes from competing during the 2020 season, yet high school athletes like Daniel have demonstrated the ability to adapt and persevere in these competitions. For Daniel, that perseverance has paid off in a big way.

Competing in prep sports is a wonderful opportunity to learn lessons in discipline, focus, work ethic, and comradery. Winning a state title is a momentous achievement Daniel can be proud of for the rest of his life, and I have confidence he will find success using the lessons he learned while competing in cross country. Go Fishermen.

HONORING KURT RICHTER

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an essential member of our team who helped us identify—and eventually evacuate—vulnerable Afghans after the fall of Kabul, Dr. Kurt Richter of Michigan State University.

If you read his biography on the university website, you'll learn that Dr. Richter is a nationally-recognized leader of international development implementation. For over 25 years, he's been a dedicated academic, and administrator, devoted to improving lives abroad. His work has taken him around the world to some of the most complex and challenging environments for international development, from Guatemala to Georgia, South Sudan to Tajikistan.

However, it's in his role as director of the Grain Research and Innovation (GRAIN) programs at MSU that he was connected to scientists in Afghanistan working to grow wheat in arid conditions. It's essential research, particularly in a country where shortages of wheat are the primary causes for hunger and economic instability. But when the Taliban began advancing, and finally took Kabul, their connection to an American university and USAID funding put them in grave danger.

This is when Dr. Richter sprang into action, first submitting visa applications for his staff and scholars. When the timeline for evacuation shrank from months to weeks to days, he worked around the clock to find them a seat on one of the planes leaving Hamid Karzai International Airport. Dr. Richter had firsthand experience with the chaos of an evacuation—he himself was airlifted out of South Sudan when a civil war broke out in 2013.

Thankfully, his tireless efforts paid off. The GRAIN program scholars and their families made it onto our convoy of buses and finally made it through the airport gates after multiple attempts and nearly 24 harrowing hours. Madam Speaker, words alone can't express my gratitude for everything that Dr. Richter did—and continues to do—for the individuals that he vouched for. Simply put, his advocacy saved lives and it deserves to be recognized by a grateful community and nation.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Kurt Richter for his willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For his efforts to identify vulnerable scientists, particularly female scholars, when they feared for their lives and for his character that faithfully upholds the values of Michigan State University, I submit these words—may they stand as a tribute to his dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF  
PERRYSBURG HIGH SCHOOL FOR  
WINNING THE DIVISION I GIRLS  
STATE CROSS-COUNTRY CHAM-  
PIONSHIP

### HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding high school cross-country team in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. The young women of the Perrysburg High School girls' cross-country team have represented their school ably on their way to becoming the Champions of the Division I Girls State Cross-Country Championship. The Perrysburg Yellow Jackets overcame the challenges of intense competition on the path to reach the championship, capping off an outstanding season with their noteworthy performance.

In pursuing the State Championship, the Perrysburg Yellow Jackets defeated their outstanding competitors to win the state cross-country title. The Yellow Jackets ran an impressive final meet that highlighted the perseverance they have demonstrated throughout their trip to the championship. Each member of this very special team has shown the individual effort that their sport requires for a successful team result. As a direct consequence of their hard work and dedication, they achieved an impressive season record that brought pride to their community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the Perrysburg High School cross-country team. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

CONGRATULATING ALEXIS LEONE  
FOR WINNING THE WASHINGTON  
STATE 1A GIRLS CROSS COUN-  
TRY CHAMPIONSHIP

### HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Alexis Leone of Seton Catholic High School for winning the Washington state 1A girls cross country championship. The COVID-19 pandemic limited many of our prep athletes from competing during the 2020 season, yet high school athletes like Alexis have demonstrated the ability to adapt and persevere in these competitions. For Alexis, that perseverance has paid off in a big way.

Competing in prep sports is a wonderful opportunity to learn lessons in discipline, focus, team play, work ethic and comradery. Winning a state title is a momentous achievement Alexis can be proud of for the rest of her life, and I have confidence she will find success using the lessons she learned while competing in cross country. Go Cougars.

CARRIE MEEK: THE SUNSHINE  
STATE'S PUBLIC SERVANT

### HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. MFUME. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize a champion for all people, a fighter for fair housing, an unrelenting advocate, and an American trailblazer. This woman was a friend and was our colleague as a former member of this body. The champion I rise to salute today is the Honorable Carrie Mae Pittman Meek—the Sunshine State's Public Servant.

Congresswoman Meek was born the grandchild of a slave and daughter of a sharecropper. As the youngest of 12 children growing up in Tallahassee, Florida, she excelled in academics and used education to overcome systemic obstacles that were the routine reality of those times, including sexism, racism and discrimination.

After earning her undergraduate degree from Florida A&M University, Congresswoman Meek enrolled at the University of Michigan to earn her master's degree because Florida banned Black students from attending state graduate schools at that time, according to her Congressional biography. The state government would pay her out-of-state tuition "if we agreed to get out of Dodge," she once recalled.

The then-single mother of two started her professional career as a college professor and coach at Bethune Cookman University, then taught at her alma mater Florida A&M University, before taking her talents to Miami-Dade Community College as its first Black professor, associate dean and assistant to the vice president.

With a firm foundation as a college professor, our former colleague beat out 12 other candidates when she ran for the Florida state House in 1978. Just five years later, she became the first Black woman elected to the

Florida state Senate. Carrie would go on to leverage her state service into a successful U.S. House campaign in 1992. Alongside former Representatives Corrine Brown and Alcee Hastings, Carrie joined Congress as one of the first Black members elected from Florida since the Reconstruction Era.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, Congresswoman Meek knew the importance of investing federal dollars to provide opportunities for all people and in all communities across this great nation. Her work ethic, thorough knowledge of the legislation before her, and mastery of the legislative process are as much a part of her legacy as her support for public education, affordable housing, and programs to prevent poverty.

As a fighter for women's rights, Congresswoman Meek worked to protect victims of stalking at the state level and focused Congress on important legislation like the Violence Against Women Act. Indeed, her effectiveness as a public servant was only rivaled by her warmth and grace. Warmth, grace, compassion, tenacity, and savvy are some aspects of the Sunshine State's Public Servant that we will always remember.

Congresswoman Meek recently passed away after living a full life of over 95 years. Her funeral services and homegoing celebration are taking place today as I stand before you in this Chamber.

Carrie is survived by her three children Lucia Davis-Raiford, Sheila Davis Kinui, and retired Congressman Kendrick B. Meek of Florida, as well as seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Her entire family will remain in our prayers. May they be comforted to know the courageous spirit of the Honorable Carrie Mae Pittman Meek lives on.

HONORING COMMANDER DAVID H.  
MILLNER

### HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an essential member of our team that worked to receive vulnerable Afghans when they arrived in Albania, Commander David Millner.

Commander Millner has served our nation honorably as a Navy officer for 19 years. In 2007, while attending the Naval Postgraduate School, he was recognized with the Admiral B.R. Inman Award for outstanding contribution to the field of maritime intelligence. He currently serves as the Senior Defense Officer and Attaché at our Embassy in Tirana, where he's responsible for liaising between our armed forces and his Albanian counterparts, which was instrumental as we coordinated the arrival of our group of Afghan refugees.

Simply put, the success of our mission depended on tireless commitment and devotion to the cause. Commander Millner spent long hours alongside Ambassador Kim to ensure that everything would proceed smoothly. He was there, on the tarmac, to help receive our group of evacuees when they first landed on Albanian soil. For his hard work and commitment during our mission, I am forever indebted to him.

As a career naval officer, Commander Millner would tell you that it's essential that

when we ask our allies to fight for us, it comes with the understanding that we will be there for them when they need it too. It's why he would tell you that his work to receive and shelter Afghans is simply our way of upholding the American handshake. We stand krah për krah, or side to side, with them, no matter the mission or the challenge.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Commander David Millner for his willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For representing the best of our nation as he worked and for working around the clock to expedite requests and assist those who were in danger of losing life and limb,—may they stand as a tribute to his dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

HONORING 1ST LIEUTENANT  
RONALD KIMLER, USAF

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor and recognize 1st Lt. Ronald Kimler for his service in the United States Air Force during World War II and the Korean War.

When he enlisted in the Air Force out of high school, 1st Lt. Kimler progressed through a challenging series of flight schools before earning his wings in May of 1944. After shipping out from Richmond, Virginia to Europe, he was primarily stationed in Belgium. During the Second World War, 1st Lt. Kimler flew 38 missions with the 9th Air Force, ranging from bombing supply trains to supporting troop deployments. When our nation engaged in the conflict in Korea, he answered the call and served in the Air Force for an additional year and nine months.

For his service, 1st Lt. Kimler earned numerous awards, including the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the Army of Occupation Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

One lasting impact that stands out from his service was 1st Lt. Kimler's connection to his fellow airmen. In the face of risk-filled and challenging missions, they became, in 1st Lt. Kimler's words, "closer than blood relatives." This bond led 1st Lt. Kimler to regularly keep in touch with a number of his comrades, speaking with them several times a month over decades despite serving together more than 70 years ago.

While his service is deserving of high praise, notably earning the nickname "flak bait" for the number of times his plane was hit, 1st Lt. Kimler has always put the focus on his fellow servicemembers. Instead of glamorizing his own actions, he has always looked to memorialize the over four hundred thousand Americans who lost their lives in World War II. This attitude reflects the best nature of our country—Americans working together for a common cause and united in our gratitude for the sacrifice of our fellow countrymen.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing 1st Lt. Ronald Kimler for his devotion to the United States of America and

courageous service during the Second World War and the Korean War.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, fifty years ago this fall, Congress overwhelmingly passed the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) that would ensure equality for women and prohibit discrimination based on sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation. In 2020, the ERA crossed its final hurdle to becoming a constitutional amendment when Virginia ratified it. Consequently, the ERA now meets the legal threshold for a constitutional amendment—to be ratified by 38 states. Without haste, the ERA must be certified and published.

Since WWII, women have been the backbone of the U.S. economy and nurturers to the nation, yet they do not enjoy equal protection under the law from discrimination based on sex. As the former Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia once commented, "Certainly the Constitution does not require discrimination on the basis of sex. The only issue is whether it prohibits it. It doesn't." Today, women hold the majority of jobs in the nation, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Yet their pay lags their White male counterparts. Analysis by the American Association of University Women found that White women earn just 79 percent compared to White men. The pay gap disparity is even greater for women of color, with Black women earning just 63 percent and Hispanic women earning a mere 55 percent compared to White men.

The structural disparities for women in the workforce go beyond simply lower pay. Regardless of the industry, women's labor continues to be undervalued. Studies show that once women enter an occupation in large numbers, wages for the occupation as a whole decline, particularly in the service industry which blatantly devalues women's contributions. And again, women of color are disproportionality impacted, with structural disparities for women of color in the labor force dating back to the end of slavery. Economic growth—both business and personal—boomed based on the exploitation of women of color. For Black women, they were forced laborers under slavery and then forced into low-paying, exploitive jobs. Similarly, Native American women experienced land theft and indentured servitude, robbing them of their economic power. These historical systems created the occupational segregation that persists today, where women of color get tracked into undervalued careers with little power and pay. The government has long failed to mandate that business owners extend basic protections to occupations dominated by women, all while relying on them to do the hardest, dirtiest, and most dangerous work—a trend that has been magnified by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is long-past time to recognize the equal value of women and enact a constitutional amendment to address discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender in our

country. The ERA is necessary to remedy structural inequalities for women. The ERA would cause public and private industry to address pay inequalities, equal access to health care, and equal treatment under the law. The ERA would give women the right to demand equal protection via the courts.

Fifty years after passage, the vast majority of Americans support the ERA. Specifically, a recent poll by the National Opinion Research Center found that three-quarters of Americans back the ERA, including 90 percent of Democrats and 60 percent of Republicans. The House has passed legislation to eliminate an administrative barrier to certification and publishing of the ERA by removing the arbitrary deadline for the archivist to certify and publish the ERA. Now the Senate must do the same.

As we mark the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, I reaffirm my resolute commitment to certification and publishing of the ERA to make our country stronger by guaranteeing that women as a class are equal to men. Certifying the ERA is not just symbolic. It is a legal anchor to dismantle systematic discrimination based on sex, giving women and all marginalized genders another tool to achieve equality. The Senate must take action now to remove the arbitrary deadline for the archivist to certify and publish the ERA; pass S.J. Res. 1 now.

CONGRATULATING KALAMA HIGH SCHOOL'S FOOTBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE WASHINGTON STATE 2B CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Kalama High School football team for winning the Washington state 2B championship. After trailing for most of the game, the Chinooks managed to take the lead over rival Napavine in the closing minutes for an exciting win to complete their undefeated season. The COVID-19 pandemic limited many of our high school athletes from competing during the 2020 season, yet these individuals persevered and demonstrated adaptability and competitiveness. For the Chinooks, that perseverance paid off in a big way.

Competing in prep sports is a wonderful opportunity to learn lessons in discipline, focus, team play, work ethic, and comradery. Winning a state title is a momentous achievement these boys can be proud of for the rest of their lives, and I have confidence they will find success using the lessons they learned while competing in football. Go Chinooks.

HONORING MR. KEITH E. WEST

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an essential member of our team that worked to receive vulnerable Afghans as they arrived in Albania, Mr. Keith West.

Service is ingrained in Mr. West's DNA—after college, he joined the Peace Corps, first as a volunteer in Cabo Verde teaching literature and English as a second language, and then as a recruiter tasked with inspiring the next generation to follow in his footsteps. Since commissioning as a Foreign Service Officer with the Department of State, he's served in our embassies in Uruguay and Nepal while also working on food security for refugees.

In his current role as the Human Rights Officer at our Embassy in Tirana, Mr. West was tapped to serve as the Afghan Relocation Lead, coordinating the arrival of our group of Afghan refugees. During that critical time, he was able to leverage the immense generosity and hospitality of the Albanian people in order to save Afghan scientists, journalists, activists, former government officials and their loved ones. No small feat—he successfully brought in multiple planes from multiple places all chartered by different non-government organizations.

As so many have noted, the approximately 2,200 Afghans who landed in Albania are more than evacuees—they are human lives who escape danger to life and limb. Thanks to the tireless work by Mr. West on behalf of these men, women, and children in need, they now have the possibility of looking to the future with hope. Along with the rest of the Tirana embassy team, Mr. West spent long hours alongside Ambassador Kim to ensure that everything would proceed smoothly. His attention to detail was second to none, and I am forever indebted to him for his effort.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Keith West for his willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For his around-the-clock effort to assist a vulnerable group of Afghans, sight unseen, and his relentless work ethic which left no stone unturned to accomplish the mission, I submit these words—may they stand as a tribute to his dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

#### HONORING TOM BLEFKO

#### HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tom Blefko of Lancaster, Pennsylvania for his work as the 2021 President of the Lancaster County Association of Realtors (LCAR). A graduate of Franklin and Marshall College, Tom got his start in the real estate industry in 1983 when he became a licensed realtor. From that point on, Tom quickly advanced in his career, taking on a number of new roles while closing countless real estate transactions along the way. All of the effort and hard work he put into his profession brought him to his current position as the Director of Operations for the North Pointe office of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, based in Lancaster, PA. Outside of this role, Tom uses his expertise and many years of experience to mentor others looking to get involved in the real estate business by working as an instructor at LCAR's Real Estate School.

We wish Tom all the best and thank him for his many years of service to the real estate industry in Pennsylvania's Eleventh District.

#### HONORING RICARDO PERRY AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

#### HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Laborers Local 177 Journeyman Ricardo Perry as Iowan of the Week. I am especially proud to recognize Ricardo, a recent graduate of the Iowa Laborers' Education and Training Fund Registered Apprenticeship Program, during the 2021 National Apprenticeship Week.

This annual observance offers Americans an opportunity to reflect on how Registered Apprenticeship Programs are critical for creating jobs, bolstering the economy, addressing workforce challenges, supporting communities, and providing equitable opportunities for men and women to succeed. Folks from different backgrounds and at different stages in their careers can engage in these programs to gain skills, make a career change, or get a competitive edge in their industry. Registered Apprenticeship Programs, in Iowa play a key role not only in filling our states talent pipeline, but also in helping keep families here as they establish roots in the areas where apprentices are working and learning their trade.

Ricardo Perry is a wonderful example of how a Registered Apprenticeship Program can benefit an individual, their industry, and the community where they settle. Ricardo recently graduated from the Iowa Laborers' Education and Training Fund Registered Apprenticeship Program to become a Journeyman. He went through a three-year journey of on-the-job work, training hours, and mentorship to become a Construction Craft Laborer.

The pathway for an apprentice can be grueling; no two days are the same, you're constantly presented with challenges, and standards and technology are ever-evolving. While the journey was difficult, Ricardo quickly earned a reputation as an extremely hard worker, skilled laborer, and uniquely positive presence. His colleagues knew him to excel in training and could always rely on him to look at the bright side of any challenge. Their respect and admiration for Ricardo is immediately apparent, and his work ethic, skill set, and strong Iowa values will no doubt benefit the greater Des Moines area for years to come.

There are many reasons I was proud to vote for the historic Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) earlier this month, one among them being the huge opportunity the bill provides for states like Iowa to train the workforces required to undertake initiatives like building out broadband infrastructure, repairing our roads and bridges, and much more. We're going to need more skilled workers than ever before, and robust Registered Apprenticeship Programs to adequately prepare them for the work at hand.

That's why I was grateful for the opportunity to host United States Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh in Iowa earlier this year. During his visit we met with brothers and sisters in labor, many of whom graduated from Registered Apprenticeship Programs, to hear about filling the jobs pipeline in our state. I was proud to show him the massive, new training facility for the

Missouri Valley Line Constructors Apprenticeship and Training Program in Indianola: a shining example of a multi-year, in-depth training program turning out quality linemen across the nation. These conversations helped elevate the amazing work organizations in Iowa are doing to train skilled workers through apprenticeship programs and help those individuals establish prosperous lives in our communities.

Madam Speaker, it is programs like the Iowa Laborers' Education & Training Fund Registered Apprenticeship Program and the efforts of Journeymen like Ricardo Perry that are going to help carry our state into the future. These trained professionals who have the knowledge and skills to safely, effectively improve upon and further build out Iowa's infrastructure will bring additional opportunities to our communities. I am grateful Ricardo has chosen to live and work in my district, and for his contributions to keep Iowa growing. It is my pleasure to name him, during this National Apprenticeship Week, Iowan of the Week.

#### HONORING NATHAN RAMIA

#### HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a member of our team who was instrumental in the safe evacuation of Afghan allies and partners alike, Mr. Nathan Ramia.

Mr. Ramia lives and breathes service. Some would say it's ingrained in his DNA as a graduate of the United States Military Academy. But beyond his Army bona fides, Mr. Ramia's character stands out in his willingness to go above and beyond for a group of vulnerable refugees, sight unseen. He leveraged his network, a word used often but rarely with so much importance, to bring together individuals from all over the world to achieve a common mission.

But where Nathan's leadership truly stands out is over the course of a harrowing 24 hours when our convoy of buses attempted to make it past the airport gates. On a group text chain with all the bus drivers, Mr. Ramia relayed information, calmed nerves, and succeeded in keeping our flock together when immense pressure was on them to turn back. After multiple attempts, several scares, and a few strokes of luck, our group of Afghans made it through—a testament to Mr. Ramia's poise throughout the ordeal.

There is a definition of courage that comes to mind when one thinks of Mr. Ramia—grace under pressure. Undoubtedly he owes some of his courage to serving our country faithfully in uniform. But there is another, quieter source of Mr. Ramia's courage. It comes from the knowledge that his work made a difference in the lives of others. It comes from seeing the fruits of his labor in the lives still with us instead of lost to a chaotic evacuation. I—and the entire team—owe Mr. Ramia an enormous debt of gratitude for his actions and his commitment to his fellow man.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Nathan Ramia for his willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For his resolve throughout the



10-day gauntlet and his calm determination in the midst of chaos that ensured the safety of individuals thousands of miles away, I submit these words—may they stand as a tribute to his dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

**CONGRATULATING KALAMA HIGH SCHOOL'S GIRLS SOCCER TEAM FOR WINNING THE WASHINGTON STATE 1B/2B CHAMPIONSHIP**

**HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Kalama High School's girls soccer team for winning the Washington state 1B/2B championship. Kalama, the second seed in the tournament, defeated eighth-seeded Adna on penalty kicks after their title match remained scoreless through 90 minutes. This dramatic finish helped Kalama earn its first state championship in school history. The COVID-19 pandemic limited many of our high school athletes from competing during the 2020 season, yet these individuals persevered and demonstrated adaptability and competitiveness. For the Chinooks, those attributes paid off in a big way.

Competing in prep sports is a wonderful opportunity to learn lessons in discipline, focus, team play, work ethic, and comradery. Winning a state title is a momentous achievement this team can be proud of for the rest of their lives, and I have confidence they will find success using the lessons they learned while competing in soccer. Go Chinooks.

**HONORING THE MISSION AND WORK OF THE IMPACT FOUNDATION AND THE IMPACT COMMUNITY CENTERS**

**HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Impact Foundation, led by Chris Laisure and his family in Bluff City, Tennessee. Mr. Laisure and his family started a foundation and purchased the former Bluff City Middle School that has now been repurposed into the Impact Community Center Bluff City. The campus has been completely remodeled to house several non-profit organizations which support both the community and local veterans. In addition, within one year, the Foundation created and dedicated the Bluff City Veteran's Memorial. This center's footprint continues to evolve and will soon include a museum dedicated to Bluff City and its history.

The Foundation then purchased the Holston Valley Middle School, and it too was completely renovated at no costs to the tenants. It hosts several non-profit athletic organizations with the same mission as the original Impact Community Center, with a focus of offering children and young adults opportunities in athletics from a faith-based perspective.

In addition, the Impact Centers have a desire to provide services to the community to

enhance the quality of life and provide both relief and assistance to those who need it without charge to the applicant. Veterans have a special place in the heart of the Foundation as well.

The Impact Foundation, led by Chris Laisure and his family, has gone above and beyond to change lives for the better every day in their community. Their effort, commitment to good, and strength of collective faith are an inspiration. Without seeking any publicity, the Impact Foundation offers the credit only to God and those around them who seek to improve the lives of their fellow citizens in their beautiful community.

Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Impact Foundation, an organization that seeks to help those in their community and improve the lives of children and veterans through their Impact Community Centers. Their work and dedication serve as an inspiration and beacon of hope to us all.

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF LENA**

**HON. MIKE GALLAGHER**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the centennial celebration of the Village of Lena. As the Village of Lena celebrates this milestone, we look back on the outstanding history that has shaped the community. Shortly after the Civil War, the small settlement once known as Maple Valley began to grow and flourish into what is now known as the Village of Lena. In 1882, the population center moved to the present location to focus life and growth around the railroad depot. The booming development welcomed new homes, small businesses, churches, a school, a small hospital, several hotels, and social establishments. Within just three decades, on December 6, 1921, the bustling settlement became the incorporated Village of Lena under the direction of then village president, Dr. Joseph Rose.

Over the last 100 years, the Village of Lena has retained a strong identity as a dairy-farming and cheese-producing community and a vibrant small-town with a family-friendly culture. The Village has continued to pay homage to the first settlers of the area and the rich farming history of the region by celebrating the annual Dairyfest each September. It has partnered with businesses throughout the area to host several family-friendly events including the Taste of Fall and Village of Lights which draws Wisconsinites from all over the state to experience all that the Village of Lena has to offer.

The residents of the Village of Lena are blessed to live in such a special place located in Northeast Wisconsin. With 564 residents and growing, the Village of Lena takes great pride in calling this place home for the last 100 years. The Village of Lena has continued to grow and foster a business-friendly environment for the last century. From a small settlement town to hosting Oconto County's largest employer, Saputo Cheese USA, Lena has simply continued to foster growth. I commend the close relationship between the Village and

local businesses that have contributed to the success of the village and Northeast Wisconsin as a whole.

It is my honor to commemorate this historic milestone for the Village of Lena. I invite all members of this body to join me in celebrating the centennial of the Village of Lena. The Village of Lena is a true credit to Northeast Wisconsin and is deserving of the highest degree of recognition.

**IN RECOGNITION OF PRIVATE ROBERT H. BROOKS AND THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR**

**HON. BRETT GUTHRIE**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, today, on the 80th anniversary of the attacks on U.S. naval forces at Pearl Harbor, we remember poignantly the courage and sacrifice of America's Greatest Generation.

That legacy of service is rich in Kentucky's Second District, exemplified by the seemingly insurmountable challenges faced by Company D of the 192nd Tank Battalion, which included the Harrodsburg Tankers.

On December 8th, across the international dateline and just hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese bombers descended on Company D and other U.S. forces who were stationed in the Philippines at Clark Field. A young private and Kentuckian by the name of Robert H. Brooks attempted to sprint to his station to fight back against Japanese forces. Sadly, he lost his life during his heroic action. He was the first casualty of the U.S. Armored Forces in World War II.

The fighting in the Philippines was relentless for the U.S. service members and Company D. All of the remaining 66 Mercer County natives—known today as the Harrodsburg Tankers—survived the initial conflict. However, 29 soldiers were lost to the unimaginable conditions during the three years they were held at prisoner-of-war camps.

At Fort Knox there is a parade field named after Private Brooks, called Brooks Field, and we will never forget him and those brave soldiers. The bravery of Private Brooks, Company D, and its tankers from Harrodsburg are an indelible reminder of the price of freedom for all that we must never forget.

**HONORING LT. COL. EROL K. MUNIR**

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an essential member of our team that worked to receive vulnerable Afghans when they arrived in Albania, Lt. Col. Erol Munir.

Born in Boston and commissioned at Fort Benning, Lt. Col. Munir has served our nation as an Army officer for the past 16 years. Service is ingrained in his DNA—both his grandfathers were in the military, which he credits with inspiring him to become a soldier.

Through the Army, Lt. Col. Munir has seen the world. In his current role as Office of Defense Cooperation chief at our Embassy in Tirana, he was an instrumental component in coordinating the arrival of our group of Afghan refugees.

Simply put, the success of our mission depended on tireless commitment and devotion to the cause. Lt. Col. Munir spent long hours alongside Ambassador Kim to ensure that everything would proceed smoothly. His meticulous attention to detail was second to none, and I am forever indebted to him for his effort.

Lt. Col. Munir will tell you that his work to receive and shelter Afghan allies is simply an extension of Albanian warmth and hospitality. As a career officer, he would also tell you that it's what he's learned throughout his time in uniform, no matter the mission or the challenge, it's his job to adapt and overcome. These two traits, humility for the work and a determination to carry it out, define Lt. Col. Munir in everything he does.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Lt. Col. Erol Munir's willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For his laser-like focus in responding to requests for assistance and for his efficient advocacy to facilitate the arrival of vulnerable Afghans to safe haven, I submit these words—may they stand as a tribute to his dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

#### HONORING REVEREND DELMUS BRUCE

### HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Delmus Bruce of Pioneer, Tennessee, and recognize a lifetime of service to his community.

In his career, Rev. Bruce has officiated more than 200 weddings, presided over 657 funerals, has baptized 1,252 congregants, and has delivered an astonishing 7,010 sermons. Rev. Bruce has also overseen the construction of a new church in 1985 and additional physical growth of the church to include a fellowship hall and a family life center.

As pastor of the Stanfield Church of God, Rev. Bruce has traveled to the Holy Land twice, traveled to Egypt, and has traveled to Hawaii in mission service to the Church of God. In his own community, Rev. Bruce has served as a pillar of faith for more than fifty years.

Rev. Bruce married the love of his life, Mrs. Rose Baird Bruce, on April 19, 1958, and they have been happily married for 63 wonderful years. Their family spans four generations and includes three children, four grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

I am privileged to recognize Rev. Bruce for his many years of distinguished service and dedication.

#### CONGRATULATING COLUMBIA RIVER HIGH SCHOOL'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE WASHINGTON STATE 2A CHAMPIONSHIP

### HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Columbia River High School's volleyball team for winning the Washington state 2A championship. After a dominant season, Columbia River defeated rival Ridgefield in four sets to claim their first state title in the sport in over 20 years. The COVID-19 pandemic limited many of our prep athletes from competing during the 2020 season, yet high school athletes like the girls on the Columbia River volleyball team have demonstrated the ability to adapt and persevere in these competitions. For the Rapids, that perseverance has paid off in a big way.

Competing in prep sports is a wonderful opportunity to learn lessons in discipline, focus, team play, work ethic, and comradery. Winning a state title is a momentous achievement this team can be proud of for the rest of their lives, and I have confidence they will find success using the lessons they learned while competing in volleyball. Go Rapids.

#### HONORING DANIELA COOPER

### HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a member of our team who was instrumental in the safe evacuation of Afghan allies and partners alike, Ms. Daniela Cooper.

Service is ingrained in Ms. Cooper's DNA—she has honorably served our country as a Marine and as a Foreign Service Officer. True to her relentless grit and instinctive nature for problem-solving, she worked with a group of others to assist with the requests that were flooding in as Afghanistan started to fall. No one asked her to do this, no one tasked her to do this, but she was part of a team that knew that skills and resources needed to be combined to help vulnerable allies in their time of need.

When we added Ms. Cooper to our ragtag band of individuals working to get Afghans out, it was the first time that I felt optimistic that we could find some success in the midst of a chaotic evacuation. When we got our group of buses in a caravan through the airport gates, Daniela worked through an entire night and countless obstacles to ensure that our group was able to get on a flight.

Without her assistance planning the flight, our mission could not have worked out in the way that it did. Thanks to her efforts throughout a gauntlet of several days in late August, over 100 Afghans have a new lease on life and can now look towards the future with their families and feel hope. I will always believe we were fated to meet over breakfast two years ago so that we could do the work we did.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Ms. Daniela Cooper for her willingness to go above and

beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For her work ethic, which earned the profound respect and admiration of our team, and for her refusal to give up until every last person in our group was on a flight to safety, I submit these words—may they stand as a tribute to her dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

#### RECOGNIZING ITALY A. GREENE

### HON. TOM RICE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Italy A. Greene's 100th birthday.

Mr. I.A. Greene was born on December 25, 1921, in Williamsburg County. He graduated from Wilson High School in 1941 and enrolled in higher education at South Carolina State College. His time in college was interrupted in 1942 when he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force where he served for three years and was honorably discharged in 1945.

Mr. I.A. Greene supported his local community by working in both the Georgetown and Darlington County school systems as a teacher, chairman, and principal. Once his long tenure as an educator ended, he continued to serve his community through various organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, Red Cross, United Way, Billy Hardee Homes for Boys, The Lord Cares Ministry, St. John's Heritage Foundation, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Additionally, Mr. I.A. Greene played a large part in the growth and upkeep of the Bethel AME Church in Darlington. He taught bible study, Sunday School, and educated new members of the church for many years. Mr. Greene is a shining example of a true American patriot and an amazing role model for the people of South Carolina.

Madam Speaker, I join the people of South Carolina in recognizing and congratulating Mr. Italy A. Greene on his 100th birthday and wish him many more happy birthdays ahead.

#### IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF LIBERTY-BENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR WINNING THE DIVISION III STATE VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

### HON. ROBERT E. LATTI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. LATTI. Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding high school volleyball team in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. The young women of the Liberty-Benton High School volleyball team have represented their school ably on their way to becoming the Champions of the Division III State Volleyball Championship tournament. The Liberty-Benton Eagles overcame the challenges of intense competition on the path to reach the championship playoffs, capping off an outstanding season with their noteworthy performance.



In pursuing the State Championship, the Liberty-Benton Eagles defeated their outstanding competitors to win the state volleyball title. The Eagles played an impressive final game that highlighted the teamwork they have demonstrated throughout their trip to the playoffs. Each member of this very special team has shown the individual effort that their sport requires for a successful team result. As a direct consequence of their hard work and dedication, both on and off the court, they achieved an impressive season record that brought pride to their community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the Liberty-Benton High School volleyball team. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

#### HONORING COLLEEN DENNY

#### HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Colleen Denny, a partner in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies and a trusted resource for them as they look ahead to the vetting process.

Service is ingrained in Ms. Denny's DNA—she is a graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy, where she earned her degree and was commissioned as an ensign. During her 8 years in service, she served on three different ships, including as commanding officer of a fast response cutter. Her duties spanned from search and rescues, counter-narcotics operations, to humanitarian aid missions. In 2010, when Haiti's infrastructure was leveled by a massive 7.0 earthquake, Ms. Denny was one of the first boots on the ground at the Port-au-Prince harbor, providing essential medical care, helicopter evacuations, and disaster relief to the population.

Later, as a Peace Fellow with the Children's Peace Initiative in Kenya, she worked to settle differences between warring pastoralist communities. With a focus on shared activities and common purposes, Ms. Denny helped bring together children from the two sides as well as tribal leaders in order to shift how the groups saw each other from adversary to ally.

Now, as regional director for Europe at Spirit of America, Colleen was instrumental in helping our group of Afghans escape grave and immediate threats from the Taliban. Despite the tragedy of fleeing their homeland, Ms. Denny provided them the support they need to now look towards the future with hope. From securing housing to providing basic supplies and tools to stay in touch with loved ones, Ms. Denny has given the same time, care, and consideration to each request. Ms. Denny is an example of our country at its best, with an attention to detail second to none. I cannot express how grateful I am to have her skills and expertise on our side.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Ms. Colleen Denny for her willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For being there, on the tarmac, to meet vulnerable men, women, and children when they landed in Tirana and for continuing to be there for them in the days and weeks

afterward, I submit these words—may they stand as a tribute to her dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSIP PEPERNI

#### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn and observe the passing of a hardworking public servant, Lieutenant Josip Peperni, who departed from this earth on November 16, 2021. Josip was nearing 20 years of leadership with the police department of Norwich, Connecticut when he unfortunately passed at the all too young age of 57. Josip was an indescribable positive force in the Town of Norwich, and his loss is a particularly sensitive one to the communities of eastern Connecticut.

Born across seas in Bradina, Bosnia-Herzegovina in the Balkans to Kazimir and Reljka Peperni, Josip immigrated to the United States at an early age, gaining the opportunity to establish roots of his own. In achieving that purpose, Josip transitioned to and lived as a longtime community member of southeastern Connecticut, gravitating toward a fulfilling career as a policeman. Though he held several essential roles during his loyal tenure as an officer with the Norwich Police Department—working as a school resource officer, within the department's crisis intervention team, and as a K-9 patrol officer—Josip Peperni was most recently promoted to the role of Lieutenant in 2018, overseeing the day-to-day functions of the Department's patrol unit. Joe utilized his position as Lieutenant as a resource to connect with the Town's community members, ensuring that Norwich Police portrayed an accessible and communicable brand. His incredibly approachable nature and guiding principle of treating everyone with equal respect helped him succeed in this mission. It is for these prime reasons that his intimate presence will be so sorely missed.

Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to represent constituents like Josip, who has reflected the continued strength of the American story by making the hard choice to immigrate to our nation, not just for opportunity but to also become intertwined with our communities. Though his loss is great, we should find solace in his work to contribute to that story, ensuring that it lives on through his surviving family, many of whom are now thriving members of their own communities within the State of Connecticut—his wife, Katie, his children: Nikita, Dakota Peperni and his wife Stephanie, and Kayla, grandchild Mya, and siblings Olivera and Karolina. Josip's legacy and compassionate character will also be remembered by his colleagues at the Norwich Police Department and the countless community members whose lives have been touched by his example. To that end, I ask that my colleagues and this Chamber join me in appreciating Josip's story and successes, expressing our condolences to the Peperni family and extending the reach of Josip's memory by setting it into stone.

RECOGNIZING DAVE MILLER'S SERVICE AS A T-MOBILE EMPLOYEE

#### HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Dave Miller on his many years as General Counsel of T-Mobile, overseeing all of the company's legal and government affairs functions and participating in its expansion and success.

Dave began with the company in 1995 as the Director of Legal Affairs, supporting its work as it spun-off from its parent company, acquired other communications corporations, and changed its name to the T-Mobile we know today. In 2002, he was appointed General Counsel and Chief Legal Officer and in 2011 was appointed Executive Vice President.

He has received many accolades for this work, including the T-Mobilizer Award, the Service Partner Award, and PSBJ Corporate Counsel of the Year.

Dave's more than twenty years with the company have left their mark on the 9th Congressional District of Washington, where T-Mobile's headquarters are located. For this, I thank him and congratulate him on his retirement.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to honor Dave Miller for his achievements during his tenure with T-Mobile.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF ANTHONY GALAGAZA OF THE BAKERSFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT

#### HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chief Anthony Galagaza on his retirement from the City of Bakersfield Fire Department after 30 years of service.

Chief Galagaza found his calling for community service and firefighting at a young age after witnessing his father serve as Fire Captain for over 30 years. Galagaza began his career as a seasonal firefighter for the Bureau of Land Management while volunteering as a reserve firefighter locally. His hard work and dedication allowed him to become a professional firefighter and eventually Fire Captain himself.

Chief Galagaza is a state certified chief officer and obtained numerous advanced training certificates throughout his career. He holds degrees in Fire Technology, Fire Science, and Business Administration.

Chief Galagaza dedicated his life to volunteerism and serving his community. He made great efforts to serve the Central Valley throughout his lifetime and has remained an integral part of the community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Fire Chief Anthony Galagaza for his lifetime of service to the City of Bakersfield, California, and congratulating him on his recent retirement.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING  
MARCELLA ROSE RYAN LEBEAU

**HON. DUSTY JOHNSON**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Marcella Rose Ryan LeBeau, Wígmúnke Wašté Wíŋ (Pretty Rainbow Woman), of the Cheyenne River Oóhenuŋpa (Two Kettle) Lakota Nation. Marcella LeBeau, a decorated veteran of the Second World War and a constant advocate for Indian country, passed away on November 22, 2021 at the age of 102.

Mrs. LeBeau was born in 1919, in Promise, South Dakota, and was a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. After the death of her mother and grandmother, LeBeau attended an Indian boarding school where she faced much discrimination and was barred from speaking the Lakota language.

When LeBeau was 23 she enlisted in the Army Nurse Corps and served in England, France, and Belgium during the Second World War. As a nurse with the 76th General Hospital Unit, she treated frontline soldiers during the Invasion of Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge. According to Mrs. LeBeau, "it was the greatest honor of my life to serve."

After the war, LeBeau continued to serve her community as an R.N. for 31 years until she retired as the director of nursing for the Indian Health Service on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation. Marcella also served on the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council from 1991 to 1995 where she succeeded in leading a campaign to ban smoking in tribal buildings.

Mrs. LeBeau remained active in organizations and advocacy for Native Americans' rights and health and was a co-founding member of the North American Indian Women's Association.

Mrs. LeBeau married Gilbert LeBeau in 1947 and together they had eight children, 29 grandchildren, 46 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

LeBeau has been recognized and honored in many ways throughout her life. In 2004, LeBeau was awarded the French Legion of Honor for her service in World War II, which is the highest honor given by the French government. She was inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame in 2006 and awarded the Women in History Award from the Spirit of the Prairie Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in 2016. LeBeau also received an honorary doctorate degree in Public Service from South Dakota State University in 2018. In 2020, the National Congress of the American Indian recognized her with a leadership award, and USA Today named her as one of the most influential women of the century. On November 6, 2021, she was inducted into the National Native American Hall of Fame.

Madam Speaker, Marcella LeBeau dedicated her life to the service of her family, her tribe, and her nation. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring her contributions to our nation and the people of South Dakota. I extend my deepest condolences to the LeBeau family, Marcella will be deeply missed.

HONORING TERRELL CHANDLER

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of our essential partners in supporting our Afghan allies as they await vetting and processing in Albania, Ms. Terrell Chandler.

Ms. Chandler is the Director of Field Operations for Spirit of America, a non-profit organization whose mission is to support our diplomats and our men and women in uniform abroad. Through 1,442 projects in 91 countries, Spirit of America delivers on the promise of a free and better life for countless individuals who live where Americans are deployed.

Before joining Spirit of America, Ms. Chandler spent over a decade as a Navy reservist supporting Marines, Green Berets, and other Navy units. In 2014, she served a combat tour in Afghanistan where she supported Navy SEALs and Army Special Forces as a member of a Cultural Support Team. While deployed, she developed a first-of-its-kind curriculum and training for a military exchange between U.S. and female partner forces in Southwest Asia, all while working to deliver humanitarian aid that supported the local population. This mission brought her in contact with Spirit of America and after exiting the service, she joined the ranks of other veterans who work at the non-profit.

In her role, she's been instrumental in sourcing donations for more than 100 Afghans who were evacuated to Albania. Their harrowing journey out of danger may be over, but they still need support while they are vetted to come to the United States—a process that could take years. Ms. Chandler knows how to bring resources and efficiency to a mission and we couldn't ask for a better partner as we coordinate the short, medium and long-term plan for our allies.

Ms. Chandler lives and breathes Mark Twain's words, "broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things can't be acquired by vegetating in one corner of the earth all one's life." Wherever her service has taken her, she has taken the time to give back.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Ms. Terrell Chandler for her willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For her commitment to providing for them while they await processing and resettlement, and for her resourcefulness and grit to solve any challenge, come what may, I submit these words so they stand as a tribute to her dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

HONORING THE LIFE OF  
CHARLENE LEONARD

**HON. BRIAN BABIN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Charlene Mat-

thews Leonard, who passed away on Tuesday, November 23, 2021, after a brief illness. She was born on March 3, 1933, in Mexia, Texas, to parents Z.S. and Jewel Matthews.

Charlene and her family moved to Beaumont, Texas, in the early 1940s, where she graduated from Beaumont High School in 1951. During her formative years, Charlene encountered and befriended Mrs. Eloise Milam, founder of the Melody Maids. This singing group of young women performed with the goal of expressing their gratitude to the men and women serving in uniform during WWII. Without hesitation, Charlene quickly joined the group. Traveling for 30 years as "Ambassadors of Goodwill," the Melody Maids brought joy to American military bases around the world.

Charlene met the love of her life, William S. "Bud" Leonard, while attending Lamar College, which is now known as Lamar University. They shared a wonderful marriage for nearly 67 years until Bud's death in 2020. During their marriage, the couple was blessed with two children. Their eldest daughter, Joni Marie, was born on March 14, 1956, in San Diego, California, while Bud was stationed there in the Navy. Joni was born with severe mental and physical disabilities, but that did not prevent her from living a full life at home with her parents for the last 65 years. Their son Will, equally the apple of the couple's eyes, was born in Beaumont two years later in 1958.

With a song always in her heart, Charlene could be heard faithfully sharing her love of music with the church choir at Calder Baptist Church, the Interfaith Choral Society, Beaumont Junior League Follies, and Lullaby of Broadway which supported the music program at Lamar University. She routinely attended her alma mater's functions, cheering on the Cardinals at athletic events, while her husband Bud served as Vice Chancellor for Development. Those attending productions at the Julie Rogers Theatre in Beaumont regularly found Charlene in the Melody Maids' Museum sharing the countless mementos and scrapbooks from their decades of travel that are housed there.

Charlene was strong in her faith and her love for her husband Bud, her son Will and his wife, Michelle, of Beaumont, and her twin granddaughters, Anne Kellam Leonard of Los Angeles, California, and Claire Matthews Leonard of Birmingham, Alabama. Similarly, one cannot say enough about Charlene's devotion and selfless adoration for her special daughter, Joni. She never relented in her resolve to personally care for Joni as long as she could and never complained or regretted one moment of that decision.

Madam Speaker, until he passed away in 2020, Bud and Charlene Leonard were an inseparable pair, a Beaumont institution that defined community service and a zest for life. Charlene genuinely loved and cared for people and valued making new friends to add to the many cherished old friends she was dedicated to her whole life. I am privileged to have known her.

# INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TRANSPORTATION FUNDING EQUALITY ACT

## HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the District of Columbia Transportation Funding Equality Act. This bill would make the District of Columbia eligible for two federal programs that support the development and revitalization of public transportation systems in the same manner that states are currently eligible for these programs. D.C. residents pay the same federal taxes as residents of the states, and D.C. should be treated as a state in federal programs.

First, the bill would treat D.C. as a state in the High-Density States Formula for certain grants from the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund. Currently, only states are eligible for these grants. Second, the bill would treat D.C. as a state under the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities program. Currently, each state is authorized to receive \$1.75 million annually and each of D.C. and the territories are authorized to receive \$500,000 annually.

The programs in the bill fund the modernization of bus and rail fleets, the purchase of zero-emission transit vehicles, the improvement of station accessibility for all users and the extension of transit service to new communities. They especially benefit communities of color, since these households are twice as likely to use public transportation.

The House-passed surface transportation reauthorization act, the INVEST in America Act, would have made D.C. eligible for these two programs in the same manner as states. Unfortunately, the enacted surface transportation reauthorization act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which the Senate wrote, did not.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill to provide funding for effective, efficient and sustainable transportation options for D.C. in same manner as states.

# CONGRATULATING SETON CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM FOR WINNING THE WASHINGTON STATE 1A CHAMPIONSHIP

## HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Seton Catholic High School girls cross country team for winning the Washington state 1A championship. While the COVID-19 pandemic caused significant disruptions to the team's 2020 and 2021 season, the team retained its competitive edge through the challenges they faced. Winning the first state championship in school history is evidence that their perseverance has paid off!

Each member of the team contributed to their team's success at the state tournament. Alexis Leone, Lara Carrion, Avery Garrison,

Sara Cordova, Virginia Carrion, and Addison Miller can all be proud of this tremendous accomplishment and cherish the memories they have made for the rest of their lives. Go Cougars.

# HONORING THE LIFE OF DETECTIVE MANUEL CHRISTOPHER "CHRIS" WIDNER

## HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Detective Manuel Christopher "Chris" Widner who passed away on August 22nd of 2021. Chris passed due to COVID-19 complications at the young age of 47. He leaves behind, in the safe keeping of God, his beautiful wife, son, and two step-daughters.

Det. Widner lived a life dedicated to the service of his family and his community. After high school, Chris started his career as a servant to the people at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ). Holding on to his dream to be a police officer, after 15 years with TDCJ Chris found an opportunity to serve as a local police officer. For his last 11 years, Chris served as a sworn officer of the peace for the people of Paris, Texas. Not since 1985 has the Paris Police Department had an officer fall in the line of duty, he will be greatly missed. Chris loved the Lord and knew God as a friend in this life. I am sure, through faith, that Det. Widner has heard the words "Well done thy good and faithful servant."

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize Det. Widner's devotion to God, Country, family, and his community. Furthermore, Madam Speaker, I extend my personal condolences to the family and friends of Det. Widner.

# HONORING AMBASSADOR YURI KIM

## HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated career diplomat who has devoted her life to public service, Ambassador Yuri Kim.

I first met Ambassador Kim years ago when we worked together on Iraq policy. Like so many others around the world who have worked alongside her, my initial thought was one of gratitude for her contributions to our team. Ambassador Kim is a thoughtful, compassionate, and committed diplomat who can masterfully leverage her deep knowledge and her magnetic charisma to the task at hand. It's no surprise that Ambassador Kim was confirmed to her position by voice vote in the U.S. Senate—she's one of the best that our country has to offer and I'm proud to call her a friend.

In August, when dire circumstances required us to scramble and reach out to potential countries that could host our group of Afghan evacuees, Ambassador Kim jumped into the breach. Our team called the embassy in

Tirana and she personally returned our call—setting in motion a chain of events that led to more than 100 lives being saved. That we were able to cross paths in the way that we did is a testament to the power of relationships and how they can change the course of history.

All leadership starts at the top, and our embassy staff in Tirana is a powerful example of putting country over self in order to complete a mission. They are truly learning from the best, in the same way that Ambassador Kim learned from the best as a special assistant to the late Colin Powell. There are no words to express the relief and the joy that I felt after that initial call with Ambassador Kim. I—and my entire team—are forever in her debt.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Ambassador Yuri Kim for her willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For her efforts to marshal the resources and personnel of our Embassy in Tirana and for her quick and efficient actions that undoubtedly saved lives in their hour of greatest need, I submit these words—may they stand as a tribute to her dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

# RECOGNIZING TRI-VALLEY HAVEN VOLUNTEERS

## HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the work of Claire Nelson and Emily Stahl, two remarkable volunteers of Tri-Valley Haven, a domestic violence shelter that creates homes safe from abuse and contributes to a more peaceful community one family at a time.

Claire Nelson, one of the founders of Tri-Valley Haven, led an amazing group of formidable women. Claire was invested in working to help women and children after her years of professional experience in the day care field. She even went as far as to take survivors into her own home until Tri-Valley Haven was able to purchase a six-bedroom shelter. Claire took pride in building Tri-Valley Haven up from behind the scenes and served on the organization's board of directors, as their treasurer, and as president.

Emily Stahl was the shelter's children's counselor who approached each child as a unique young person with dreams and ideas of their own. She worked with parents, schools, civic groups and community partners to advocate for the kids at Shiloh Shelter. Her understanding of the work was incredibly broad and infused with kindness, genius, and good humor.

Tri-Valley Haven, like many organizations in recent years, experienced ups and downs with funding and staffing; through it all, Claire and Emily continued to ensure a safe place for survivors and their families. They're part of the reason I'm honored to represent California's 15th Congressional District.

I thank Claire and Emily for their vision and dedication to providing domestic survivors safe harbor when they need it most.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF  
CAREY HIGH SCHOOL FOR WIN-  
NING THE DIVISION VI STATE  
FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

### HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding high school football team in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. The young men of the Carey High School football team have represented their school ably on their way to becoming the Champions of the Division VI State Football Championship tournament. The Carey Blue Devils overcame the challenges of intense competition on the path to reach the championship playoffs, capping off an outstanding season with their noteworthy performance.

In pursuing the State Championship, the Carey Blue Devils defeated their outstanding competitors to win the state football title. The Blue Devils played an impressive final game that highlighted the teamwork they have demonstrated throughout their trip to the playoffs. Each member of this very special team has shown the individual effort that their sport requires for a successful team result. As a direct consequence of their hard work and dedication, both on and off the field, they achieved an impressive season record that brought pride to their community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the Carey High School football team. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF GREGORY  
RONALD "RON" HERRING, SR.

### HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Gregory Ronald "Ron" Herring, Sr. Ron spent his life dedicated to his family and the people of the Northern Neck. He was the kind of person who never met a stranger.

Ron graduated from Hargrave Military Academy in 1968 and went on to apprentice and graduate from Newport News Ship Building in 1972. He met the love of his life, Linda Lee, and they were married on March 14, 1970. Together they started the Home Crafters in 1987 where they erected more than 300 homes and completed countless renovations.

Throughout his life, Ron was very involved with the Morattico Baptist Church, the Northumberland County Republican Committee, the Northern Neck Home Builders Association, and the Northumberland County school system. Ron was also an avid outdoorsman with a deep love for the Northern Neck's waters. He enjoyed spending his time fishing, boating, and advocating for commercial and sport fishermen.

Ron is survived by his wife and sweetheart, Linda; sister, Georgena Herring Strawderman; daughters, Angela (Shawn) Clarke and Sara

Bishop; son, Greg (Shannon) Herring; grandchildren Madison, Bobby and Jacob Clarke, Luke and McKenna Dooley, and Danielle Thompson.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me and countless others as we recognize the life of Gregory Ronald Herring, Sr.

### RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT VETERAN SUICIDE

### HON. BARRY MOORE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, today I would like to bring to your attention Operation Iron Ruck, an event led by the University of Alabama and Auburn University's Student Veteran Associations to raise awareness of the critical issue of veteran suicide. Operation Iron Ruck is held every year ahead of the Iron Bowl, the classic football game where the Auburn University Tigers face off against the University of Alabama Crimson Tide.

Unfortunately, each day, twenty-two veterans and active-duty service members take their lives. To raise awareness of this tragedy, Operation Iron Ruck participants hike 151 miles from Tuscaloosa, Alabama, all the way to Auburn. Participants carry twenty-two pounds of gear to represent each of those fallen warfighters.

Once at Auburn, the items inside the rucks are then donated to Alabama State Veteran homes and to Three Hots and A Cot, a non-profit organization committed to securing housing for veterans in need. Additionally, over \$5,000 was raised this year to further support these organizations and other support groups, such as Mission 22 and the student veterans' associations of both universities.

Madam Speaker, we owe it to every American who has ever worn a uniform in military service of our great nation to honor their sacrifices and ensure that they never face a scenario where they falsely believe their last option is to tragically take their own life. As a country, may we renew our dedication to these men and women and care for those who have put their own lives on the line for our liberty and safety. Let this commemoration forever be preserved in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States, and may the world never forget the sacrifices of these brave men and women.

### HONORING MARTHA BARRA

### HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Congressman MIKE THOMPSON in recognition of the 80th birthday of Martha Barra and her lifetime of work building the Barra family wine business of Mendocino County into an industry leader in sustainable, organic wine production.

Born on December 14, 1941, Martha's career in the wine industry began in 1980, when she married the late Charlie Barra, a trail-

blazer in Mendocino County's early wine industry. Under the stewardship of Martha and Charlie Barra, Barra of Mendocino and Girasole Vineyards broke new ground, setting the standard for ecologically friendly wine grape growing and wine making techniques, and becoming leaders in Mendocino County's nascent environmentally conscious 'green' wine industry.

Martha Barra learned the wine business from the inside out, exploring ecologically conscious agriculture and production methods long before these practices were well known. She went on to directly manage the winery's organic certification process herself for nearly 30 years. Today, all of the grapes grown on the 325 acre Barra vineyard in Mendocino County's inland valley are 100 percent certified organic. Thanks to her pioneering efforts in eco-friendly agriculture, close to 25 percent of the vineyards in Mendocino County are also certified organic.

Barra of Mendocino and Girasole Vineyards remains an independent, family-owned and operated business under Martha Barra's leadership. As the matriarch of a multi-talented family, Barra employed the skills of her adult children to continue to elevate the business. Today, her son and daughter assist her in growing nine different varietals, producing and marketing two wine brands, operating a 2.8 million gallon custom crush facility, and running a uniquely charming events center located along Highway 101.

Originally designed to look like an inverted wine glass, the 5,000 square foot Barra Winery Event Center hosts private events enjoyed by both Mendocino County residents and visitors from near and far. The Barra Winery Event Center reflects Martha Barra's community-minded values by also providing a uniquely beautiful space for fundraising opportunities to support local nonprofits, and her Barra of Mendocino donates to a range of charitable organizations, with a special dedication toward causes of promoting and supporting the needs of children, cancer research, awareness, and patient support and improving our local community.

In the face of changing and challenging times including the COVID-19 pandemic, Martha Barra has led the family business to continue to prosper, offering COVID-safe wine tasting to guests at their winery, as well as virtual tasting events and wine distribution in 35 states and several countries.

Martha Barra currently spends most of her time overseeing the vineyard operations, doing local tastings and events, working with the winemakers to set flavor profiles, and managing the organic certification processes. At wine events, she is known fondly for handing out shiny stickers of bees, representing her commitment to the importance of sustainable agriculture. From learning the intricacies of organic wine production, to food and wine pairing, studying architecture and remodeling houses, Martha Barra is a person of many talents.

Martha Barra's enduring commitment to protecting the environment and the people of Mendocino County, while also producing premier, award-winning wine, is remarkable and a benefit to the region. Madam Speaker, please join us in recognizing Martha Barra for her many contributions and wishing her a wonderful birthday.

## CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FAMILY TREE CLINIC

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the staff, volunteers and patients of Family Tree Clinic on its 50th anniversary of service to the Saint Paul and Minneapolis communities. As a nonprofit community clinic in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, Family Tree provides education and high-quality, affordable, and affirming health care centered on each person they serve.

With its deep roots in Saint Paul, Family Tree began in 1971 when community volunteers and health care workers came together to fill a gap in access to reproductive health care that was brought to light by a neighborhood needs assessment. Family Tree responded by offering non-judgmental and patient-centered care, regardless of an individual's ability to pay. Early on, Family Tree mostly served students from five nearby colleges. Over the years, it has grown to reach people throughout the Upper Midwest.

Family Tree is a leading reproductive and sexual health clinic that has strengthened its services to vulnerable and marginalized populations throughout its five decades of service. It operates the Minnesota Family Planning and STD Hotline, which was established by the Minnesota Department of Health in 1978. Through the hotline, Family Tree provides reliable and accurate medical information and education across Minnesota. Family Tree's health education program in schools reaches more than 15,000 students and parents each year. In 2004, Family Tree pioneered a new health education program—still the only program like it in the U.S.—that provides free, comprehensive sexual health education and advocacy services to 800 people each year in Minnesota who are Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled, Hard of Hearing, and LateDeafened. Its creation of the LGBTQ Health Access Initiative in 2009 increased Family Tree's percentage of patients who are LGBTQ from 9 percent to 60 percent. Family Tree also partners with the University of Minnesota to train medical students in LGBTQ-inclusive health care services.

Today, Family Tree has more than 35 staff members and 50 volunteers who reach over 22,000 people per year through its many programs and services. With the growth of the clinic and increased demand for comprehensive health care, Family Tree Clinic kicked off its next 50 years of service by recently moving into a new clinic and education center in Minneapolis. The new building provides space for

more exam rooms and staff, continued expansion of community programs, the addition of telehealth capabilities, and the potential to serve an additional 10,000 patients each year.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Family Tree Clinic's caring and steadfast staff and volunteers—as well of the patients they serve—on the 50th anniversary of the clinic's success at cultivating a healthy community through comprehensive sexual health care and education.

**LIFE AND LEGACY OF HON. GREG HOBBS****HON. JOE NEGUSE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Justice Greg Hobbs who we lost on Monday, November 29th.

As a former Supreme Court Justice in Colorado, Justice Hobbs was a mentor to countless Coloradans, our state's preeminent authority on water law and relied on by many for his expertise and leadership.

He was caring and compassionate, a friend to many and a vibrant member of our community.

The impact of his work will continue to be felt throughout the state of Colorado for years to come, and his legacy will not soon be forgotten.

My thoughts and prayers are with Emily, Bonnie and Dan and all of Justice Hobbs family and friends, and the community that loved him.

This week and in the weeks to come we will mourn his passing, remember his life and be inspired by his wisdom and leadership.

**RECOGNIZING THE ARCHER CENTER'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY****HON. VAN TAYLOR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, I rise along with my colleague, Rep. COLIN ALLRED, to recognize the Archer Center at The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas on the occasion of its 20th anniversary.

In 2001, Bill Archer of Houston, Texas, retired from the United States House of Representatives (TX-07) where he had served for 30 years, including a six-year tenure as Chairman of the U.S. House Ways and Means

Committee. Immediately upon his retirement, Congressman Archer and his long-time chief of staff, Don Carlson, established the Archer Center and the Bill Archer Fellowship Program. The University of Texas at Dallas, which is in our congressional districts, is the academic home for the Archer Center.

As the Washington, D.C., campus of The University of Texas System, the Archer Center provides talented undergraduate, graduate, and medical students from across the U.T. System's thirteen academic and health institutions with the opportunity to live, learn, and intern in the nation's capital.

The Archer Fellowship Program is a unique academic and experiential learning program that introduces highly accomplished students from the State of Texas to the federal policy-making process. Archer Fellows spend a transformative semester interning for a variety of public and private organizations including the White House, Congress, and the U.S. Supreme Court. More than 1,500 students have participated in the Archer Center's semester-long and summer programs in the past two decades. Over the years and at present, we have each hosted Archer Fellows in our offices. We have even hired Archer Fellow alumni to join our official staffs.

The Archer Fellowship continues to elevate the reputation of the U.T. System and its students. It has served as a springboard for graduate and professional careers at prestigious universities and medical centers such as Harvard University, Yale University, and the University of Oxford, as well as virtually every U.T. institution. The program has also enabled students to enter high-impact careers in the public and private sector. Archer Fellows have been awarded many distinguished scholarships, including the Harry S. Truman Scholarship, the Marshall Scholarship, the Rhodes Scholarship, the Schwarzman Scholarship, and the Fulbright Scholarship.

Today, Archer Fellow alumni continue Congressman Archer's legacy of public service by working in all branches of state, federal, and local government, and by serving in the military. These young people represent the very best of North Texas and there is no doubt some future members of Congress among them.

As the Archer Center celebrates its twentieth anniversary, we wish to express our gratitude to Congressman Archer and Don Carlson for their vision and enduring support for Texas students. The Center's growth and continued success is fueled by the dedication of the U.T. System leadership, including Chancellor J.B. Milliken, the Board of Regents, and U.T. Dallas President Richard Benson, and steadfast supporters and alumni of the Archer Center.

We send our best wishes to the Archer Center on this important milestone.